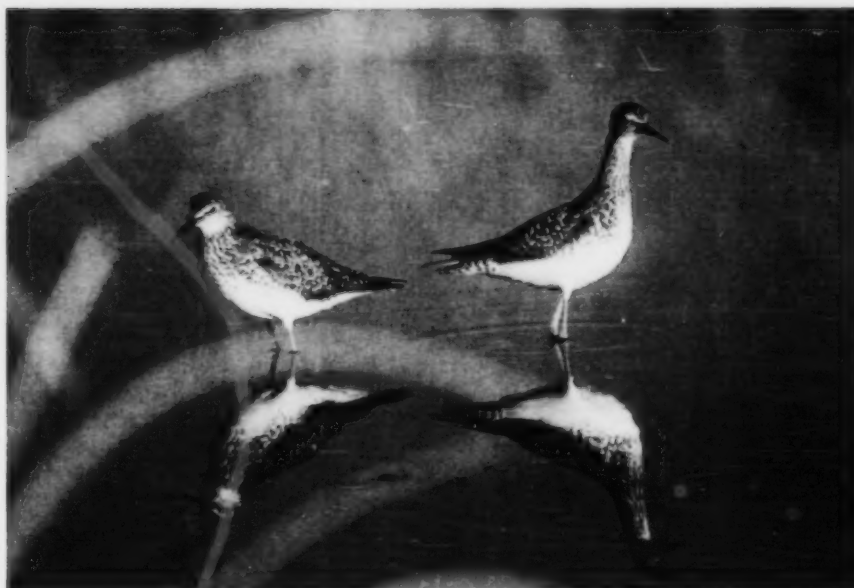


**LÚTSÄW WETLAND**  
**Habitat Protection Area**  
**Management Plan**



**Prepared by**  
**Selkirk First Nation Government**  
**and**  
**Government of Yukon**

**May 2006**

# Lútsäw Wetland

## Habitat Protection Area



Habitat Protection Area Boundary

Selkirk First Nation Settlement Land adjacent to Habitat Protection Area

The positions of boundaries and other features on this map are approximate. For legal descriptions, refer to the LWHPA Administrative Plan, No. 86458.



Mán Dímty'ík  
(Sink Lake)

Pelly  
Crossing

Highway

Mán Ts'ándou  
(Long Lake)

Dz'ra Mán  
(Cox Mound Lake)

T'he Ndu Mán  
(Rock Island Lake)

Dz'ána Mán  
(Musknet Lake)

Selkirk  
R-10B

Klondike

Lut'sāw  
(Jackfish Creek)

Chát Mán  
(Duck Lake)

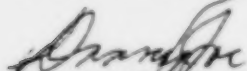
Lútsāw Mán  
(Jackfish Lake)

Selkirk  
R-03A



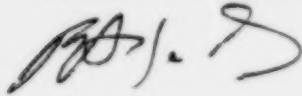
Approval Recommended by the  
Łútsāw Wetland Habitat Protection Area  
Management Plan  
Steering Committee

Danny Joe  
Selkirk First Nation

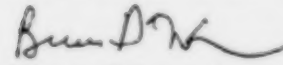


Roger Alfred

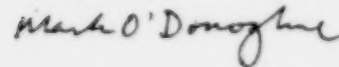
Selkirk First Nation



for Len Mychasiw  
Government of Yukon



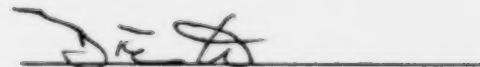
Mark O'Donoghue  
Government of Yukon



Approved by



Darin Isaac  
Chief  
Selkirk First Nation



Dennis Fentie  
Minister of Environment  
Government of Yukon

Apr. 20, 2006  
Date

May 2, 2006  
Date

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## **1.0 Introduction**

The Łutsāw Wetland Habitat Protection Area (ŁWHPA) was established as a Special Management Area (SMA) in accordance with the terms and provisions of Chapter 10 of the Selkirk First Nation Final Agreement whose effective date is October 1, 1997. Schedule "C" (Section 1.2) of Chapter 10 of the Selkirk First Nation Final Agreement also requires that (ŁWHPA) be designated as a Habitat Protection Area pursuant to the *Wildlife Act* as soon as possible after the effective date (Appendix 1). No further designation is required to meet the management objectives of this plan. The wetland is comprised mostly of category A settlement land (parcel R-3A) and includes a small portion of Government of Yukon land.

Establishment of the area as a SMA imposes an obligation to maintain important features of its natural or cultural environment for the benefit of Yukon residents and all Canadians while respecting the rights of Yukon Indian People and Yukon First Nations. For greater certainty the Selkirk First Nation Government and Selkirk First Nation people have established rights and responsibilities with respect to fish and wildlife in this HPA as set out in Chapter 16 of the Selkirk First Nation Final Agreement. These established rights include the guarantee for sharing of powers and responsibilities in the management of fish, wildlife and their habitat in the Łutsāw Wetland Habitat Protection Area by both the Selkirk First Nation and Government of Yukon. In this context and for the purpose of developing a management plan for the wetland, the following objectives were established for the Łutsāw Wetland Habitat Protection Area (ŁWHPA) as outlined in Schedule "C" of Chapter 10 of the Selkirk First Nation Final Agreement:

- to ensure Conservation of Fish and Wildlife and Fish and Wildlife habitat for the benefit of Yukon residents;
- to recognize the importance of the Area to Selkirk People and the protection of the use of the Area by Selkirk People;
- the protection of the full diversity of Wildlife populations and their habitats from activities that could reduce the Area's capability to support Wildlife; and
- the encouragement of public awareness of and appreciation for the natural resources of the Area.

For the purpose of this management plan the definitions contained in the Selkirk First Nation Final Agreement will apply to terms used in common. Łutsāw is a Northern Tutchone term referring to the unique type of pike that are resident in the lake. Other Northern Tutchone terms are used for geographical features, animals and plant species throughout this document.

## **2.0 Background**

### **2.1 Area Description**

The Łutsāw Wetland Habitat Protection Area is located approximately eight kilometers southwest of Pelly Crossing in south central Yukon (see inside cover). It is approximately 15 kilometers in length and, at its greatest width is about 2.5 kilometers.

The area is bounded to the west by the North Klondike Highway and is situated in a southwest to northeast aspect. The majority of the land contained in the LWHPA is comprised of a portion of parcel R-3A (2,776 ha) of Selkirk First Nation settlement land. In addition, it includes the whole of parcel S-122B (2 ha) and a portion of Yukon land comprising 428 ha. The entire Łutsāw Wetland Habitat Protection Area constitutes a total surface area of 3,206 hectares. An administrative plan showing legal boundaries of the LWHPA has been prepared under the *Canada Lands Surveys Act* by the Legal Surveys Division of the Department of Natural Resources Canada.

The Łutsāw Wetland Habitat Protection Area encompasses many of the ecosystem components associated with a series of freshwater lakes, ponds and land locally referred to as the Łutsāw wetland or "Von Wilczek Lakes" as listed in the *Yukon Gazetteer*. The originator of the present official name was Lieutenant Fredrick Schwatka of the United States Army who traveled down the Yukon River in 1883 in a search for evidence to the fate of the Franklin expedition. In his diary he describes a "beautiful wide valley" in the Minto area to which he named after "Graf Von Wilczek" of Vienna, Austria. The Geographical Board of Canada in 1960 designated the creek that drains the Łutsāw wetlands as Von Wilczek Creek and, at the same time gave the same name to the lakes contained in the present HPA. The Northern Tutchone names for features in the wetland have only been recently recognized and it is recommended that these names be adopted for future reference (see inside cover).

## 2.2 Terrestrial Environment and Resource Values

The surrounding landscape is characterized by rolling hills and plateaus separated by deep broad valleys. Geologically, the region has been shaped by glacial activity whose deposits remain in the form of silt, sand and gravel. In some locations a layer of volcanic ash can be seen in the soil and can range up to 30 cm thick. Glacial deposits are typically covered with a thin surface layer of soil and organics. The region is within a zone of discontinuous permafrost.

The regional climate is generally cold and dry with a mean annual air temperature of approximately -3.5° C. During the summer months temperatures average 12° C but can reach to over 30° C. In the winter months temperature averages -19° C and can drop to well below -40° C. The driest month for precipitation is usually April, with the month of July having the most rain. Mean annual precipitation in the region can vary greatly, from 250 mm to over 400 mm at higher elevations. Owing to its higher terrain, this area is thought to intercept additional precipitation from moisture sources lower down in the Yukon River valley. Traditional and local knowledge suggests the topsoil is at its driest period during August.

Forest cover in the LWHPA is predominately black spruce (ts'ok) with dense stands associated with wetter areas. The dryer upland terrain supports mixed stands of white spruce (ts'ok), trembling aspen (t'o) and balsam poplar (t'o). Grass tussocks (tl'óshó'), sphagnum moss (nínmbáy') and cranberry are common in the wetlands. High bush cranberry (tséntthya) is found in the wetter locations while low bush cranberries (intl'át)



prefer the dryer soils of the area. Grassland expanses are established in the more open unforested areas.

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Recurring fires have heavily impacted the forest resources in the area. The most recent fires were in 1969 and 1995, with the latter known as the "Minto Fire" burning much of the forested portion of the ŁWHPA southwest of Tthe Ndu Mân. At some sites the intensity of the fire was so great that it left no standing timber. These areas are presently undergoing post-fire succession but remain sensitive to soil disturbances. At some locations the fall-down of partially burnt timber may be a fire hazard under dry summer conditions. The entire area that encompasses the ŁWHPA is currently within the zone of active fire suppression.

The ŁWHPA forms part of the winter range of the Tatchun caribou herd. The area is frequented by caribou (hudzi), especially during the late winter period. Previous to the 1995 forest fire, relatively large numbers of caribou were periodically observed on lakes in the wetland. Recent observations suggest these animals now utilize other habitat more frequently outside the wetland as a result of the 1995 forest fire.

Moose (denyák) also use the Łútsāw wetland for spring calving and during the fall for rutting. Aerial surveys in 1995 and 2000 indicate moose densities are relatively high and stable in the region. Other wildlife inhabiting the area include grizzly (sra cho) and black bear (sra denét'ro), beaver (tse'), muskrat (dzāna), fox (nunthi), lynx (néde), wolf (egay), wolverine (néye), martin (nunt'in'), mink (tedhoga), squirrel (dlák) and rabbit (ge). Little is documented of the small mammals such as mice (dluan), voles and shrews that live in the wetland. Trappers have observed a change in the densities of the small mammals that utilize the ŁWHPA since the forest fire in 1995. Upland areas are known to support grouse (di). Numerous species of songbirds have been observed, reflecting habitat diversity.

### **2.3 Aquatic Environment and Resource Values**

There are several lakes and ponds in the ŁWHPA with the two largest lakes locally known as Łútsāw Mân (Jackfish Lake) and Tthe Ndu Mân (Rock Island Lake). Other lakes of significant size that have traditional names include Chāt Mân (Duck Lake), Mân Ts'āndoa (Long Lake), Mân Dinnts'ik (Stink'in Lake), Dzāna Mân (Muskrat Lake) and Dezra Mân (Cow Moose Lake). Their small surface areas and the gentle relief of the surrounding terrain suggest all to be relatively shallow in depth, generally less than five meters.

Drainage from the ŁWHPA is principally through Łútsāw Tagiá (Von Wilczek Creek). This creek flows south from the outlet of Łútsāw Mân eventually discharging

into the Yukon River at Minto, Yukon. Traditional and local knowledge suggests sections of Łútsäw Tagiá become dewatered during low flow periods. The flow of water in these sections has been observed to "disappear into the ground" prior to entering the Yukon River. It is known that beaver dams have influenced aquatic habitat within Łútsäw Tagiá as well as the shoreline of Łútsäw Mân. High water levels, in particular on Łútsäw Mân, have flooded the lake margin where dead and dying trees have formed a ring around the lake. Lake levels on Tthe Ndu Mân have remained unchanged despite being connected by a small creek with Łútsäw Mân. The smaller lakes to the north including Mân Ts'āndoa, Mân Dinnts'ik and Dezra Mân, all appear to be land locked. The effects of drought, forest fires and changes to the water table likely influence surface water elevations and water quality in these lakes.

Surface waters in the ŁWHPA are ice-covered for approximately eight months of the year. During the relatively brief open water season, typically from May/June to September/October large numbers of waterfowl use this area. Waterfowl surveys suggest utilization by at least 18 bird species that include cranes (dga), ducks (chât), loons (tútsay), terns, gulls (méhk'éń'), swans (degay) and geese (khe). This wetland area has previously been identified as unique and significant in terms of the abundance of breeding, post breeding, molting and migrating ducks. Before ŁWHPA was established as a SMA, land-management officials affirmed its importance in terms of waterfowl habitat by noting it on *Territorial Resource Base Maps* as an area of significant conservation interest.

Łútsäw wetland also supports extensive emergent and submergent plant communities. Sedges, semiaquatic grasses, mosses and several species of aquatic pondweeds grow in considerable abundance in Łútsäw Mân and Tthe Ndu Mân. Extensive stands of round-stemmed bulrush located along the shoreline of Tthe Ndu Mân are of special significance. This species of aquatic plant has a limited Yukon distribution and is seldom encountered elsewhere in the Yukon Territory.

Northern pike is the only known fish species known to occur in the ŁWHPA, inhabiting only Łútsäw Mân, Tthe Ndu Mân and Dezra Mân. These lakes contain numerous invertebrates, including freshwater shrimp that serve as the preferred food item for the northern pike. Each spring, northern pike in spawning condition can be observed in a small stream that connects Tthe Ndu Mân with Łútsäw Mân. This stream is the site of a historical and present fishery and serves as a food source for families of Selkirk First Nation people. Traditional and local knowledge suggest a recent decline in abundance of spawning fish. Selkirk First Nation people voluntarily have reduced their harvest of fish at this site. Past harvests of northern pike were significant, but with no records, the extent of these harvests is unknown.

Historic and recent testing of the water under the ice in Łútsäw Mân in late winter suggest this lake is subject to very low oxygen levels (anoxic) and possibly "winter kill" conditions. The most recent forest fire in the area may have contributed in some way to the deficiency of oxygen in the lake. Nutrient levels have been shown to increase in boreal watersheds affected by fire from inputs of nitrogen and phosphorous made available through the process of burning. Oxygen depletion could result from decomposition of algae and aquatic plants following enhanced productivity of these organisms due to nutrient enrichment.

Other smaller lakes and ponds in the LWHPA most likely become oxygen depleted (anoxic) during the winter due to their small size and shallow depth. Traditional knowledge and local observations confirm the use of the wetland by wood frogs, a species that prefers small fish-less ponds.

## **2.4 Heritage Background**

A total of 18 archaeological sites have been identified within the LWHPA in addition to numerous historic sites. Archaeological evidence indicates the area has been used continuously for the last 5,000 to 8,000 years. The location of the archaeological artifacts at traditional fishing sites and the current oral history about these lakes suggest continuity in traditional land use patterns over thousands of years. Excavation at one site at Rock Island Lake suggests spring waterfowl hunting is an activity that has been carried out for more than 5,000 years by Selkirk First Nation people.

Recent history shows the area is now utilized throughout the seasons by Selkirk First Nation and other aboriginal people, especially during the spring to harvest spawning northern pike. Access to these fish is important for people to maintain their traditional diet. Spawning migrations usually start during May in a small stream that connects Łútsāw Mān and Tthe Ndu Mān, where fish are harvested mainly by gaff. Selkirk First Nation people traditionally camp or use this area as a gathering place to harvest and sometimes dry fish. The fish are used as food for both people and their pack dogs. While fish resources at this location are more limited than those of Ta'tla Mān and other larger rivers in the region, this area is none-the-less an important and reliable food source. Łútsāw Mān and Tthe Ndu Mān are also fished traditionally in the winter with hooks through the ice.

Other historic and present uses of the area by Selkirk First Nation people included trapping, hunting for both small (grouse, squirrel and ducks) and large animals (caribou, moose), berry and root harvesting and the collection of medicinal plants. Some locations that received repetitive cultural and spiritual use are used for teaching traditional practices, resulting in the passage of knowledge from one generation to the next. Recent uses of the wetland area included grazing of horses, cultivating forage and the collection of fuel wood.

## **2.5 Current Access and Other Use**

Passing motorists along the North Klondike Highway occasionally stop for recreational fishing or hiking in the area. It is thought these visitations are motivated by road signage (Łhútsāw Lake) or through the attraction of the easily visible access roads in the area. Access to Tthe Ndu Mān is well established and enables visitors to use motorized boats on this lake. Use of other types of off-road motorized vehicles such as ATV's is thought to be minimal and limited to the dryer upland areas, where travel is unconstrained and away from the lower wet terrain. Non-motorized activities in the wetland include bird watching, recreational fishing, kayaking and canoeing during the open water season.

Snowmachines are currently the most popular method of accessing the wetland during the winter, mainly by residents of the community of Pelly Crossing. The Yukon

Quest dog sled trail also generates activity in the area as it bisects the LWHPA, crossing over Chāt Mān, Łútsāw Mān, Tthe Ndu Mān and Mān Ts'āndoa. Floatplanes have occasionally used the area.

A single agricultural grazing lease was contained in the LWHPA and was issued in 1985 prior to the establishment of the habitat protection area. It was located in an open meadow just northwest of Tthe Ndu Mān and can be accessed from the North Klondike Highway. The lease agreement expired in 1991 and has never been renewed. A small titled property with an access road is shown on the LWHPA Administrative Plan prepared under the *Canada Land Surveys Act* by the Legal Surveys Division of the Department of Natural Resources, Canada. An abandoned "bunkhouse", fencing posts, barbed wire and several refuse piles are all that remain at this site. Removing these abandoned items, especially the wire, is recognized as a priority as it is hazardous to wildlife. Three "cabins" are also located within the LWHPA, all situated on the settlement land portion of the LWHPA (parcel R-3A) and accessible by seasonal roads. Selkirk First Nation members own these structures.

A former gravel crushing and storage site is located at km 446 of the North Klondike Highway near the northwest shore of Łútsāw Mān. The site was developed by the Government of Yukon in 1984 for use in resurfacing the highway. The area is now within the boundaries of the LWHPA and has since been abandoned. The former site can still be accessed from the highway but most of the disturbed area is undergoing natural revegetation.

### **3.0 Plan Development and Public Involvement**

A steering committee was established in October 2000 to prepare a management plan for the Łútsāw Wetland Habitat Protection Area. Details on membership, plan objectives and implementation are outlined in Schedule "C" of Chapter 10 of the Selkirk First Nation Final Agreement (Appendix 1). A secretariat service was obtained to organize meetings and workshops, record the proceedings and to help in the drafting of the plan.

The preparation of the management plan required public involvement, including direct consultation with Selkirk First Nation people and the Yukon public. Consultation was achieved through a public workshop that focused on the identification of issues, observations and concerns. These consultations provided the framework upon which the plan was developed. The workshop was held in the Pelly Crossing community hall during March, 2001. The workshop enabled the involvement of the local Selkirk Renewable Resources Council, as well as individuals who had an interest in Łútsāw Wetland Habitat Protection Area. A summary of the recommendations, observations and concerns expressed at the workshop is presented in Appendix 2.

Upon completion of the workshop, the management plan was prepared using material that was orally presented and recorded at the workshop in addition to technical and archaeological information from various government departments. Various drafts of the management plan were reviewed by the steering committee until a final draft was completed to the satisfaction of the committee. The steering committee then gave the

draft plan to the Selkirk Renewable Resources Council for public review. Representatives from both governments took part in the public consultation with the Selkirk Renewable Resources Council (November 2003). The draft plan was recommended for final ratification by Selkirk First Nation and Government of Yukon in March, 2004.

## **4.0 Management Recommendations**

Anticipated expenditures will be shared according to the areas of responsibilities of the parties to the Selkirk First Nation Final Agreement and budgeted consistent with financial administration processes of the parties. An obligation to implement these recommendations is subject to money being appropriated by the parties for the purpose of the approved management plan.

### **4.1 Forest Resources and Fire Suppression**

The quantity of forest resources in LWHPA may be determined in a forest management plan developed under Chapter 17 of the Selkirk First Nation Final Agreement, should the need for such information arise. The forest resources in the planning area are thought to be small and interspersed. Only small stands of live merchantable timber are currently contained in the planning area.

Much of the forested terrain has been burnt by forest fires and in some areas, with such intensity that even standing fuel wood is limited. Use of live trees in the planning area has been solely for the construction of a small number of cabins on the category A settlement land portion of the LWHPA. Small volumes of fuel wood continue to be harvested by Selkirk First Nation people within the LWHPA.

#### **Recommendation**

Forest management in the settlement portions of the LWHPA will be consistent with the Hetsutthat (Minto) Land Use Plan endorsed by the Selkirk First Nation in June 2002 (Appendix 3). The parties agree to coordinate any future forest resource planning initiatives in the LWHPA under Chapter 17 of the Selkirk First Nation Final Agreement. It is recommended that the LWHPA remain in the zone of active fire suppression.

### **4.2 Mineral, Oil and Gas Resources (Gravel and Quarries)**

The area has sparse bedrock exposures and has only been mapped at reconnaissance scale (1:250 000) by Bostock (1936) and Tempelman-Kluit (1984). The current geological compilation of Yukon by Gordey and Makepeace (2000) shows the area to be underlain by metamorphic rocks of the Yukon-Tanana terrane. A brief examination of roadside exposures during the summer of 2002 revealed that the area is underlain by marble, amphibolite (metamorphosed volcanic rocks), foliated granodiorite (plagioclase-muscovite-biotite orthogneiss) and muscovite-quartz schist. Recent bedrock mapping to the east (Colpron et al. 2002) indicates that the Luts'aw area is most likely underlain either by (1) the pre-Late Devonian Snowcap Complex (the oldest unit of Yukon-Tanana

terrane in central Yukon), or (2) the Carboniferous Semenof formation (a probable equivalent to Quesnel terrane).

The Snowcap Complex consists predominantly of quartz mica schist and quartzite with minor amounts of marble and amphibolite. These rocks are metamorphosed to upper greenschist to amphibolite facies and are extensively intruded by Mississippian plutons (tonalite to granodiorite). Rocks of the Snowcap Complex are complexly deformed. No mineral deposits have yet been identified in the Snowcap Complex. Near Little Salmon Lake, the Snowcap Complex is overlain by Mississippian metavolcanic rocks which host a massive sulphide occurrence.

The Semenof formation consists predominantly of greenstone and amphibolite (mafic metavolcanic rocks) and subordinate marble. The Semenof greenstone is locally intruded by foliated tonalite and diorite plutons. Rocks of the Semenof formation are variably deformed and metamorphosed. Copper mineralization (malachite, azurite, native copper) and geochemical anomalies are locally present in the Semenof formation.

Regional mineral assessments are limited to the state of the geological knowledge current at the time the assessments were conducted, and as such consist of snapshots in time. Mineral assessments must be updated periodically as new detailed bedrock mapping is conducted, as new mineral discoveries are made or new mineral deposit types are identified. The area around Łútsáw was assessed based on the assumption that the rocks present were part of Yukon-Tanana terrane. If, however, future detailed bedrock mapping shows that the area is underlain by rocks of Quesnel terrane, then a new assessment should be conducted.

Both tracts which cover the ŁWHPA ranked relatively lowest with respect to the Southwest Yukon and the Cassiar/Yukon-Tanana Terrane regional assessments. The tracts including the SMA were assessed for the following mineral deposit types: gold quartz veins, epithermal deposits, volcanic massive sulphide deposits, gold deposits related to Tintina fault, and copper skarn deposits.

### **Recommendation**

It is recommended that all lands in the ŁWHPA be withdrawn by parties of the Selkirk First Nation Final Agreement within the intent outlined in Schedule "C" (Section 1.4) of Chapter 10 of the Selkirk First Nation Final Agreement until the approved ŁWHPA Management Plan is reviewed and further recommendations are made to the contrary. Implementing this recommendation would involve extending the interim withdrawals now in place with respect to mineral and oil and gas rights on Yukon land. The First Nation would put a process in place to similarly suspend these rights on settlement land.

Mineral and oil and gas activities would thus be temporarily suspended throughout the ŁWHPA until the approved plan is reviewed, at which time the parties would determine how best to manage the area for the next interval of time.



### **4.3 Water Resources**

Water resources both within and around the LWHPA are generally considered to be pristine. While the maintenance of water resources is a key component to ultimately protect aquatic habitat, influences outside the boundaries of the LWHPA have the potential to affect water resources in the planning area. Change to either the quality or quantity of surface waters in streams that feed the wetlands, ponds and lakes, whether from natural disturbances or human activities, can have a significant effect.

Specific concerns raised in the workshop were largely associated with issues outside the current boundaries of the LWHPA. The steering committee and workshop participants felt that establishing water management objectives for LWHPA without some consideration of adjacent activities would be a weakness in the plan. Issues such as groundwater contamination through the application of road salt, erosion from trail development, impacts of ATV's on terrain, agriculture encroachment, forest fires and impacts of beaver dams, especially in the Lutsāw drainage, were identified as concerns. While some of these concerns can be resolved in the current plan, others may be more difficult to quantify. None-the-less it was felt that a number of options to assess and manage ecological impacts from land and water based disturbances within the watershed could be pursued. These options may include but are not limited to providing comment on current and future land and water use assessment processes and through the participation of Selkirk First Nation people in any future watershed or land use planning process.

#### **Recommendation**

Determine and maintain current water quality in the LWHPA. Adverse or negative ecological impacts related to changes in the water quality and/or quantity in the LWHPA from disturbances outside the boundary of the LWHPA will be reduced or eliminated through coordinated government responses currently available under regulatory and review processes that apply.

### **4.4 Recreation and Tourism Development**

LWHPA and its wetlands, lakes and ponds, while currently not popular Yukon destinations, do provide recreation opportunities to both local and regionally based visitors. Visitations during the summer are largely from people who travel the North Klondike Highway who are curious enough to stop, attracted by the road signage. In some instances, those with vehicles that are self contained such as RV's may stop and overnight. To others who have some background knowledge of the area, the main attraction is the wildlife (waterfowl) viewing potential of the area. The Ndu Mān is the only waterbody in the HPA to have a boat launch.

#### **Recommendation**

Discourage the use of campfires and overnight camping, as no facilities are provided in the LWHPA. Encourage local economic opportunities through interpretive displays and/or guided, low impact "eco-tourism" activities in the LWHPA. Prohibit commercial

recreation that does not conform to the objectives of outlined in Schedule "C" (Section 1.4) of Chapter 10 of the Selkirk First Nation Final Agreement.

#### **4.5 Residential Development**

Residential development in the ŁWHPA has the potential to affect a number of natural and cultural features in the wetland. In order to preserve the wetland character and the long-term conservation of fish and wildlife habitat, any development will need to be considered carefully in light of the objectives of this management plan. The conservation of both the natural and cultural resources in the ŁWHPA needs to be the priority in the consideration of any residential development.

##### **Recommendation**

Any proposed residential development must be consistent with the objectives outlined in Schedule "C" of the Selkirk First Nation Final Agreement through coordinated government responses currently available under regulatory and review processes that apply.

#### **4.6 Access and Roads**

The general public as well as Selkirk First Nation members regularly use existing access points to Łutsāw Mān and Tthe Ndu Mān. The issue of access, road and trail development was a primary focus in discussions at the workshop. Currently the "Yukon Quest" trail bisects the ŁWHPA and provides access for snowmachines to the ŁWHPA by the public during the winter. There was support to maintain this trail in its present condition without improvements other than for general maintenance, for the 60-month term of the plan. Should the all season "Trans-Canada Trail" be considered for the area, it should be routed around the ŁWHPA because the lowland areas are saturated and unsuited for travel during the summer.

Workshop participants felt a need to discourage and prohibit where possible the establishment of new roads, including winter roads, and trails into and through the ŁWHPA. By discouraging and prohibiting ground access other than on the existing trail, additional access points into ŁWHPA will not be developed. It was also felt that, during the summer, ATV's should also be discouraged from using the wet areas to avoid habitat disturbances. Others workshop participants felt the use of motorized boats should not be permitted on lakes within the ŁWHPA to prevent disturbances to waterfowl. Small motorized boats typically used for hunting and fishing are not a concern.

##### **Recommendation**

Motorized vehicles should be confined to existing winter and summer trails in the ŁWHPA. The parties may impose conditions to further manage access as needed. In addition activities such as camping, campfires and the development of new access should be discouraged in the ŁWHPA to prevent damaging habitat.

The present public access point (Tthe Ndu Mān) should be posted with signage notifying the public about the lack of facilities and of their responsibilities when accessing the area.



Both Selkirk First Nation and Government of Yukon should investigate the process to regulate recreational boats on lakes and ponds within the LWHPA.

#### **4.7 Other Linear Developments**

Linear developments such as railways, oil and gas pipelines, high-voltage electrical transmission lines and other developments of this nature have the potential to directly or indirectly affect fish and wildlife and their habitat in the LWHPA. It was felt that developments such as these should not occur within the boundaries of the LWHPA to avoid direct habitat loss and disturbance to wildlife. Any proposed linear development near the wetland would require the design, implementation and coordination of large-scale multi-disciplinary environmental impact assessment studies intended to identify and mitigate impacts on the LWHPA.

##### **Recommendation**

Linear development that does not conform to the objectives outlined in Schedule "C" of the Selkirk First Nation Final Agreement shall not be sanctioned within the boundaries of the LWHPA. The direct and indirect impacts of any linear development in the LWHPA would be addressed through an environmental impact assessment for the project. Any linear development should occur within the Klondike Highway right-of-way corridor and be preferably on the west side of the highway.

#### **4.8 Heritage Resources**

Elders expressed a need to teach the cultural significance of artifacts found in the LWHPA to youth, and link the present to historic methods of survival. Currently, 18 archaeological sites are identified in the LWHPA, in addition to numerous historic / traditional occupation sites. Interpretive and curriculum material developed from the heritage research will be used in education programs for Selkirk First Nation youth. As per section 13.3 of the Selkirk First Nation Final Agreement, the Selkirk First Nation Government owns and manages heritage sites on settlement lands in the LWHPA. On non-settlement land within the LWHPA, moveable ethnographic resources are owned and managed by the Selkirk First Nation Government; the Government of Yukon will work together with the Selkirk First Nation Government to manage and research heritage sites on non-settlement lands. Archaeological research will be carried out so as to provide training and employment opportunities for Selkirk First Nation students.

##### **Recommendation**

To protect known and undiscovered heritage sites, the usage of motorized vehicles should be confined to existing winter and summer trails in the LWHPA. In addition, activities such as camping, campfires and the development of "new" trails should be discouraged in the LWHPA to prevent damaging both heritage artifacts and habitat. The present public access point (The Ndu Mân) should be posted with signage notifying the public of their responsibilities when accessing the area. It is recommended that an archaeological survey of the area be completed.

All archaeological studies in the ŁWHPA will be performed in collaboration with the Selkirk First Nation Government as stipulated under Chapter 13 of the Selkirk First Nation Final Agreement. Archaeological research will be carried out to provide opportunities for Selkirk First Nation students to participate.

#### **4.9 Fisheries**

Northern pike is the only known fish species to inhabit the ŁWHPA, specifically in Łútsāw Mān, Tthe Ndu Mān and Dezra Mān. Recreational anglers, some attracted by road signage angle for this species, primarily during the summer. Access by snowmachine especially during the spring, allows for ice fishing opportunities. Non First Nation recreational anglers are required by law to have a Yukon Angling License that sets catch limits, gear and season requirements.

The participants of the spring subsistence fishery access their traditional fishing site between Łútsāw Mān and Tthe Ndu Mān by foot from the North Klondike Highway. The fishery occurs for a few weeks during May coincident with the spring freshet. There is limited information on current or historic harvests. Recent observations at the fishing site suggest a decline in the northern pike population. This concern was expressed by a number of participants at the workshop.

##### **Recommendation**

A study is needed to determine status of the northern pike population and the potential causal factors for their decline. Selkirk First Nation members would like to rebuild the northern pike population. It is recommended that Traditional Law practices be applied, specifically that fish harvesting would be limited until the population recovers. In addition, restrictions on recreational fishing in the ŁWHPA should be implemented through a variation of the *Yukon Territory Fishing Regulations* and amending the Regulations as required. It is understood that measures to further regulate fishing will be preceded by public consultation, as required by the regulatory-review process. Selkirk First Nation members would also like to see the historic fishing site cleaned of refuse. No commercial fishing, domestic fishing or fish farming licences shall be issued for any lake or stream in the ŁWHPA. Stocking of fish in lakes contained in the ŁWHPA shall not be allowed.

#### **4.10 Wildlife**

Selkirk First Nation people will continue to use and encourage the practice of cultural activities in the ŁWHPA. Cultural activities in the past have included hunting, fishing, trapping, free grazing of animals, berry picking, medicinal plant harvesting, fuel wood gathering and habitat stewardship activities.

##### **Recommendation**

Harvest of wildlife shall be regulated by the Selkirk First Nation Government on all category A portions of the ŁWHPA. Harvests of wildlife on the Yukon Government portion of the ŁWHPA shall be under laws of general application. Current trapline concession holder(s) will continue to have access to furbearers within the ŁWHPA. The

parties agree to meet with SFN Elders to discuss the use of traditional practices in the enhancement of habitat.

#### **4.11 Agriculture**

Previous agricultural use in the LWHPA was limited to a single agricultural lease for the grazing of horses, which has expired. In order to protect habitat and archaeological resources, workshop participants did not want any further agriculture or grazing interests sanctioned in the LWHPA.

##### **Recommendation**

No commercial agriculture or grazing interests should be sanctioned in the LWHPA. Occasional grazing of horses can be sanctioned provided it conforms to the management objectives of this plan. Refuse at the site of the expired grazing lease (fencing posts, barbed wire and garbage) is to be removed and disposed of appropriately.

#### **4.12 Approval and Review of the Approved Plan**

The effective date of this management plan is the date on which it is approved by the Minister and Selkirk First Nation. The Selkirk First Nation Final Agreement provides that a review of the Management Plan to occur within five years of the initial approval and no later than every ten years thereafter.

##### **Recommendation**

Any proposed amendments of the approved management plan shall be referred to the Selkirk Renewable Resource Council for its review and recommendations.

## 5.0 Implementation

<b>ACTIONS TO IMPLEMENT THE PLAN</b>	<b>AGENCY</b>	<b>TIMELINE</b>
Clarify legal and jurisdictional issues and develop a strategy to manage the operation and use of motorized vehicles in the LWHPA.	SFNG, GY	As required.
Collect baseline information from traditional and other sources on fish and wildlife habitat in the LWHPA including habitat condition and the need for habitat enhancement.	SFNG, GY	Ongoing
Monitor fish and wildlife harvests as required.	SFNG, GY	Within first year of plan approval.
Develop signage to be posted at the Tthe Ndu Mân boat launch outlining key components of the LWHPA plan and public responsibilities.	SFNG, GY	Within first year of plan approval.
Use Traditional Law for the restriction of the subsistence fishery in the LWHPA until the northern pike population recovers.	SFNG	Ongoing
Restrict the recreational harvest of fish in the LWHPA through a variation of the Yukon Territory Fishing Regulations and follow up with a regulation amendment as required, until the northern pike population recovers.	GY	Within first year of plan approval, subject to legislative constraints and retain in force as required.

<b>ACTIONS TO IMPLEMENT THE PLAN</b>	<b>AGENCY</b>	<b>TIMELINE</b>
<p>All lands in the LWHPA be withdrawn by parties of the Selkirk First Nation Final Agreement within the intent outlined in Schedule "C" (Section 1.4) of Chapter 10 of the Selkirk First Nation Final Agreement until the approved LWHPA Management Plan is reviewed and further recommendations are made to the contrary. Implementing this recommendation would involve extending the interim withdrawals now in place with respect to mineral and oil and gas rights on Yukon land. The First Nation would put a process in place to similarly suspend these rights on settlement land. Mineral and oil and gas activities would thus be temporarily suspended throughout the LWHPA until the approved plan is reviewed, at which time the parties would determine how best to manage the area for the next interval of time.</p>	SFNG, GY	<p>Upon plan approval, for a period of five years.</p>
<p>Continue Archaeological Investigations</p>	SFNG, GY	<p>Ongoing to achieve desired objectives in the plan.</p>
<p>Cleanup of refuse at the sites of the former agricultural lease and subsistence fishery.</p>	SFNG, GY	<p>Within first year of plan approval.</p>
<p>Recommend to the Yukon Geographical Names Board that the traditional Northern Tutchone place names in the wetland be adopted through section 13.11 of the Selkirk First Nation Final Agreement.</p>	SFNG	<p>Within first year of plan approval.</p>

<b>ACTIONS TO IMPLEMENT THE PLAN</b>	<b>AGENCY</b>	<b>TIMELINE</b>
Review management plan.	SFNG, GY	Review and revision of management plan within five years of approval or anytime upon consent of government parties.

## 6.0 References Cited

Bostock, H. S. 1936. Carmacks district, Yukon. Geological Survey of Canada, 67 p.

Colpron, M., Murphy, D. C., Nelson, J. L., Roots, C. F., Gladwin, K., Gordey, S. P., Abbott, G. and Lipovsky, P. S. 2002. Preliminary geological map of Glenlyon (105L/1-7, 11-14) and northeast Carmacks (115I/9, 16) areas, Yukon Territory (1:125 000 scale). Exploration and Geological Services Division, Yukon Region, Indian and Northern Affairs Canada, Open File 2002-9.

Gordey, S. P. and Makepeace, A. J. 2000. Bedrock geology, Yukon Territory. Geological Survey of Canada, Open File 3754, 1:1 000 000.

Tempelman-Kluit, D. J. 1984. Geology, Laberge (105E) and Carmacks (105I), Yukon Territory. Geological Survey of Canada, Open File 1101, 1:250 000.

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**Appendix 1:  
Selkirk First Nation Final  
Agreement, Schedule "C"**

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## SCHEDULE "C"

### LHUTSAW WETLAND HABITAT PROTECTION AREA

#### 1.0 Establishment

- 1.1 The boundaries of the Lhutsaw Wetland Habitat Protection Area (the "Area") shall be as set out on map "Lhutsaw Wetland Habitat Protection Area, (LWHPA)" in Appendix B-Maps, which forms a separate volume to this Agreement.

1.1.1 For greater certainty, the Area comprises that portion of Parcel R-3A and the whole of Parcel S-122B and that portion of Non-Settlement Land designated as Lhutsaw Wetland Habitat Protection Area on Territorial Resource Base Maps 115 I/10 and 115 I/15, which forms a separate volume to this Agreement.

- 1.2 The Yukon shall designate the Area as a protected habitat area pursuant to the Wildlife Act, R.S.Y. 1986, c.178 as soon as practicable after the Effective Date of this Agreement.
- 1.3 The designation as a protected habitat area shall not be removed from any part of the Area except with the agreement of Government and the Selkirk First Nation.
- 1.4 Subject to 1.4.1, Canada shall withdraw the mines and minerals in the Non-Settlement Land portions of the Area from locating, prospecting or mining under the Yukon Quartz Mining Act, R.S.C. 1985, c. Y-4 and the Yukon Placer Mining Act, R.S.C. 1985, c. Y-3, from exploration and development under the Canadian Petroleum Resources Act, R.S.C. 1985 (2d Supp.), c. 36, and from staking out a location for the mining of coal and from issuance of a licence to explore for coal pursuant to the Territorial Lands Act, R.S.C. 1985, c. T-7, for 24 months from the Effective Date of this Agreement or until a management plan is approved under 5.0, whichever is earlier.

1.4.1 The withdrawal shall be subject to:



- 1.4.1.1 recorded mineral claims and leases under the Yukon Quartz Mining Act, R.S.C. 1985, c. Y-4 and recorded placer mining claims and leases to prospect under the Yukon Placer Mining Act, R.S.C. 1985, c. Y-3, existing on the Effective Date;
- 1.4.1.2 oil and gas rights, interests and privileges under the Canadian Petroleum Resources Act, R.S.C. 1985 (2d Supp.), c. 36, existing on the Effective Date;
- 1.4.1.3 rights granted under section 8 of the Territorial Lands Act, R.S.C. 1985, c. T-7, existing on the Effective Date; and
- 1.4.1.4 new licenses, permits or other rights which may be granted in respect of an interest described in 1.4.1.1, 1.4.1.2 or 1.4.1.3.

## 2.0 Fish and Wildlife

- 2.1 For greater certainty, the Selkirk First Nation and Selkirk People have, within the Area, all rights set out in Chapter 16 – Fish and Wildlife.
- 2.2 For greater certainty, the powers and responsibilities of Government and of the Selkirk First Nation for the management of Fish and Wildlife in the Area and their habitats shall be in accordance with Chapter 16 – Fish and Wildlife and with the Selkirk First Nation self-government agreement.

## 3.0 Forest Resources

- 3.1 In this schedule, "Forest Resources" has the same meaning as in Chapter 17 – Forest Resources.
- 3.2 The harvesting of Forest Resources in the Area shall be subject to the provisions of the management plan approved pursuant to 5.0.

#### 4.0 Management Plan

- 4.1 A steering committee shall be established to prepare a management plan for the Area.
- 4.2 The steering committee shall be comprised of four members of whom two shall be nominated by the Selkirk First Nation and two shall be nominated by Government.
- 4.3 The management plan shall be consistent with the following objectives:
  - 4.3.1 the Conservation of Fish and Wildlife and Fish and Wildlife habitat for the benefit of Yukon residents;
  - 4.3.2 recognition of the importance of the Area to Selkirk People and protection of the use of the Area by Selkirk People;
  - 4.3.3 the protection of the full diversity of Wildlife populations and their habitats from activities that could reduce the Area's capability to support Wildlife; and
  - 4.3.4 the encouragement of public awareness of and appreciation for the natural resources of the Area.
- 4.4 The steering committee shall consider and the management plan may address matters pertaining to the management of the Area including:
  - 4.4.1 Fish and Wildlife management and protection;
  - 4.4.2 habitat management and protection;
  - 4.4.3 land use;
  - 4.4.4 recreational use;
  - 4.4.5 access to and use of the Area for commercial purposes;
  - 4.4.6 harvesting of Forest Resources;
  - 4.4.7 scientific research;

- 4.4.8 traditional knowledge, customs and culture of Yukon Indian People in connection with the Area;
  - 4.4.9 the role and views of Yukon First Nation elders in the development of the management plan;
  - 4.4.10 measures to enhance public awareness and appreciation of the Area;
  - 4.4.11 recommendation respecting any withdrawal of portions of the mines and minerals of the Area from locating, prospecting or mining under the Yukon Quartz Mining Act, R.S.C. 1985, c. Y-4 and the Yukon Placer Mining Act, R.S.C. 1985, c. Y-3, from exploration and development under the Canada Petroleum Resources Act, R.S.C. 1985 (2d Supp.), c. 36, and from staking out a location for the mining of coal and from issuance of a licence to explore for coal pursuant to the Territorial Lands Act, R.S.C. 1985, c. T-7.
- 4.5 The preparation of the management plan shall include a process for public consultation, which for greater certainty includes consultation with Selkirk People.
- 4.6 The steering committee shall make best efforts to recommend the management plan to the Selkirk First Nation and the Minister within two years of the Effective Date of this Agreement.
- 4.6.1 If the members of the steering committee are unable to reach agreement on the provisions to be included in the management plan, the Minister or the Selkirk First Nation may refer the matter to dispute resolution pursuant to 26.4.0.
- 5.0 Approval and Review of the Management Plan
- 5.1 The Minister and the Selkirk First Nation shall jointly approve the management plan.
- 5.2 If the Minister and the Selkirk First Nation are unable to agree on the provisions of the management plan, the Minister or the Selkirk First Nation may refer the matter to the dispute resolution provisions under 26.3.0.

5.2.1 Nothing in this schedule shall be construed to confer upon an arbitrator appointed pursuant to 5.2, any power to determine resources to be provided in connection with the Area by either the Selkirk First Nation or Government.

5.3 The management plan which is jointly approved pursuant to 5.1 or decided upon pursuant to 5.2 shall be the "Approved Management Plan".

5.4 Government and the Selkirk First Nation shall review the Approved Management Plan no later than five years after its initial approval and no later than every 10 years thereafter.

5.5 Government and the Selkirk First Nation shall refer any proposed amendments to the Approved Management Plan to the Selkirk Renewable Resources Council for its review and recommendations.

## 6.0 Implementation

6.1 The Area shall be managed in accordance with the Approved Management Plan.

6.2 Prior to the approval of a management plan pursuant to 5.0, the Area shall be managed in accordance with the objectives set out at 4.3.

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**Appendix 2:  
Workshop Summary  
March 2001**

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## **LHUTSAW (Łútsäw) WETLAND MANAGEMENT PLAN WORKSHOP SUMMARY MARCH 28 & 29, 2001**

A two-day workshop was held at the Selkirk First Nation Community Hall on March 28 and 29, 2001. Mr. Don Trudeau was the facilitator. Those in attendance included: members and alternates of the Lhutsäw Wetland Management Plan Steering Committee; Elders and residents of Pelly Crossing; representatives of the Selkirk First Nation Government; Pelly Crossing Renewable Resources Council and the Yukon Government (Departments of Renewable Resources). The following is a list of people who contributed to discussion:

Mark O'Donoghue (YTG)	Johnson Edwards (SFN)
Audrey Trudeau (SFN)	Roger Alfred (SFN)
Dan van Bibber (SFN)	Johnny Simon (SFN)
Danny Joe (SFN)	Victoria Edwards (SFN)
Linch Curry (SFN)	Alec Joe (SFN)
Lucy Hall (SFN)	Kitty Jonathan (SFN)
Maria van Bibber (SFN)	Virginia Bennett (SFN)
Peter Johnny (SFN)	David Johnny (SFN)
Rachael Tom-Tom (SFN)	David Tom-Tom (SFN)
Stanley Jonathan (SFN)	Franklin Roberts (SFN)
Ted Hall	Judy Edwards (SFN)
Teddy Charlie (SFN)	Kathleen Thorpe (SFN)

In addition to those above, several people came and listened to various portions of dialogue during the workshop. Lunch was provided each day to all those who came. Recommendations, concerns and observations and were recorded by both the facilitator and the secretariat of the Lhutsaw Wetland Management Plan Steering Committee (Nick de Graff). The workshop participants discussed the following topics as they related to the Lhutsaw Wetland Management Area (LWMA):

1. Official Geographic Names
2. Traditional and Local Knowledge
3. Recreation and Scientific Activities
4. Land Use Activities
5. Protection of Heritage Values
6. Protection of Habitat Values
7. Mineral Resource Values
8. Fish and Wildlife Values
9. Forest Resource Values
10. Harvesting of Flora and Fauna

## RECOMMENDATIONS

- Recognize the aboriginal place names of the waterbodies in the special management area by renaming or giving these lakes the following local names: Tthe Ndu Män, Lhutsäw Män, Chät Män, Män Ts'inadoá, Män Dints'ik and Dzaná Män.
- All archeological artifacts that are found in the LWMA to remain the possession of Selkirk First Nation as stipulated under section 13.3 of the Selkirk First Nation Final Agreement.
- All archeological studies in the LWMA should be performed only under the supervision of the Selkirk First Nation as through provisions under section 13.12.1.7 of the Selkirk First Nation Final Agreement.
- Archeological studies in the LWMA should be timed to coincide with public school summer holidays to maximize youth participation.
- Elders should teach youth about found artifacts and historic methods of building shelters and gathering food.
- Selkirk First Nation people should encourage the practice of cultural ways in the LWMA.
- Traditional stories should be written in northern Tutchone for inclusion in the management plan.
- Present archeological sites should be protected through the prohibition of camping, camp fires and trail development in the LWMA.
- Yukon Quest trail should remain as located but additional use or upgrading be encouraged.
- If "Canada Trail" comes to Pelly Crossing an alternate route to the "Quest Trail" be chosen due to the nature of the wetland during summer.
- Usage of motorized vehicles by people other than Selkirk first Nation members should be confined to existing winter and summer trails within the LWMA.
- Motorized boats should be discouraged on lakes within the LWMA.
- ATV's should be discouraged in wet areas to avoid disturbances to the habitat.
- Present public road access points should be posted with signage to discourage overnight camping or disturbance of heritage sites or wetland habitat.
- No new roads into LWMA by anyone other than Selkirk First nation members.
- Usage of resources within the LWMA should be exclusively limited to Selkirk First Nation members to practice traditional and historic use.
- Traditional and historic First nation uses would include hunting, fishing, trapping, grazing of animals, berry picking and fuel wood gathering.
- No live tree harvesting for commercial purposes in the LWMA.
- Usage of resources by First Nation members with and without a sharing agreement by written permission of the Selkirk First Nation.
- Survey the status of the northern pike in Lhutsäw Män and Tthe Ndu Män to determine their status and site probable cause to their disappearance.
- Use traditional law to voluntarily stop harvesting northern pike from the LWMA until fish populations recover.
- Selkirk First Nation people should work closely with scientists to address fish, wildlife and habitat issues.
- Any scientific "finds" in the LWMA must remain the property of Selkirk First Nation.
- No agricultural or grazing leases to be issued in the YTG portion of the LWMA.
- The LWMA should be a priority for forest fire suppression (may be already in the fire action zone).

- No quarries be permitted or developed in the LWMA.
- Present gravel pit in the LWMA is not used and site should be reclaimed.
- The Federal Government should withdraw the mines and minerals in the non-settlement land portion of the LWMA from locating, prospecting or mining and from exploration and development of coal, oil and gas for a period of five years after plan approval.
- The Selkirk First Nation will not allow the locating, prospecting or mining of minerals or the exploration and development of coal, oil and gas for a period of five years after plan approval.
- Discourage the development of commercial recreational infrastructure in the LWMA.
- Encourage local economic opportunities through guided "eco-tourism" activities in the LWMA.
- The historical fishing site between Lhutsaw Män and The Ndu Män needs to be cleaned up and kept clean of garbage.

## OBSERVATIONS

- A total of 18 archaeological sites were located in the LWMA
- The many traditional camps in the LWMA as evidenced by stone tools suggest the area was used continuously for the last 5000 to 8000 years.
- Northern pike were traditionally fished in the LWMA especially during the spring spawning run that occurred in the creek between Lhutsaw Män and The Ndu Män.
- People traditionally camped or used the area as a gathering place during the spring to gaff fish and sometimes to dry fish before transport.
- Fishing was also conducted through the ice in winter.
- Northern pike from the LWMA served as food for both humans and dogs.
- Other traditional activities in the LWMA included trapping (beaver, muskrat, squirrel especially in March), berry picking, hunting (ducks, grouse, moose, caribou) rabbit snaring and collection of medicinal plants (bear-root).
- Ducks use the lakes in the LWMA for staging and nesting.
- There are fewer ducks and more gulls and ravens today.
- Areas in the LWMA were also used for teaching traditional knowledge and spiritual pursuits.
- Knowledge of traditional activities in the LWMA was passed on from generation to generation.
- The spawning runs of northern pike have recently disappeared in the creek between Lhutsaw Män and The Ndu Män.
- Northern pike fishing has diminished in both Lhutsaw Män and The Ndu Män.
- Surface waters of Von Wilczek Creek sometimes flow underground, which may have something to do with the recent disappearance of northern pike in these lakes.
- The volume of fuel wood harvested by Selkirk people in the LWMA is insignificant to have an impact.
- There is little fuel wood in the LWMA with most associated with the south end of Lhutsaw Män.
- The 1995 fire burnt the live-forested area to the ground with no standing fuel wood.
- People use the existing access points regularly (Quest trail in winter, roads into Lhutsaw Män and The Ndu Män).
- Some "good" wood to the east in the area between Lhutsaw Män and The Ndu Män.
- Lots of Selkirk use of Quest Trail in winter, Quest trail is enjoyed by residents of Pelly Crossing.



## CONCERNS

- Northern pike have disappeared in recent years in the LWMA and some study is needed to find the causal factors.
- Contaminants in the fish or food chain may have caused them to disappear, should check contaminant levels in the fish.
- Other causal factors to the fish disappearance may be beaver activity restricting their movement, poor water quality under the ice in the winter or potential over harvest.
- Large numbers of ravens and gulls are preying on duck eggs in the LWMA and is having a negative affect on duck survival, some study needed.
- Overall numbers of ducks that utilize the LWMA are down from years ago, why is this so?
- Maybe there should be a limit on how much northern pike is harvested each spring in the LWMA by Selkirk people, maybe too much has been taken in the past.
- The highway sign marking Lhutsāw Lake (and it's translation: Jackfish Lake) attracts people who travel the road to recreational angle in the LWMA. With the northern pike population being diminished maybe the English signage should be removed.
- The application of road salt to the highway may be having an affect on the fish in the LWMA.
- The practice of live release fishing on northern pike in warm water needs to be studied.
- What was the affect of the forest fire on fish in the LWMA?
- Barbed wire that was left behind at the lapsed grazing lease may be a hazard to wildlife and should be cleaned up.
- Lakes in the LWMA are too small for large motorized boats.
- Water pumps should be available to cabin sites in the LWMA in case there is a wildfire.

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**Appendix 3:**  
**Land Use Plan June 2002**

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# Minto (Hetsutthat) Region Land Use Plan

June 2002

Use	Activity	Management	Recommended work
<b>Wood cutting</b>	<b>R3A</b> <i>small trees, mostly burned some green stands</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Personal use west of McCabe Hills from policeman's point to southern boundary</li> <li>Commercial potential east of McCabe Hills</li> <li>No commercial west of McCabe Hills</li> <li>Protect Lhutsaw Creek, and link with special management area, limited personal use</li> </ul>	Based on: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Traditional/Dooli</li> <li>Forestry principles</li> <li>Timber harvest plan identify plots etc.</li> <li>Guidelines for personal cutting</li> <li>Sharing accord</li> <li>Northern Tutchone identification</li> <li>Monitoring and enforcement</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Record Dooli/Traditional Law</li> <li>List forestry principles</li> <li>Develop timber harvest plan</li> <li>Develop guidelines for personal cutting</li> <li>Identify protected areas to leave alone</li> <li>Put up signs</li> <li>Ensure continued supply for Minto residents</li> </ul>

Use	Activity	Management	Recommended work
<b>Wood cutting</b>	<b>R43B</b> <i>small trees half popular, residential area and lodge</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Residential use</li> <li>NT personal use</li> <li>No commercial</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Follow guidelines for personal cutting</li> <li>Area for NT personal use</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Develop timber harvest plan</li> <li>Look for area for NT personal use and show with signs</li> <li>Make sure residential values protected</li> </ul>
	<b>R41B</b> <i>sheep road access not much wood, camping old cabin</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Protect for sheep</li> <li>No cutting</li> </ul>	Leave area for natural regrowth for sheep	

Use	Activity	Management	Recommended work
<b>Wood cutting</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>R10B, R11B</b> <i>burnt and good wood access road</i></li> <li>Commercial away from road</li> <li>NT personal use near road</li> <li>No cutting across from Lhutsaw Lake/Wetlands</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Commercial cutting areas</li> <li>Personal use corridor near road</li> <li>Prohibit cutting in narrow corridor across from Lhutsaw/Wetlands</li> <li>Timber harvest plan</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Develop timber harvest plan</li> <li>Survey commercial cutting areas</li> <li>Designate personal use corridor</li> <li>Set up no-cutting corridor across from Lhutsaw and erect signs</li> </ul>

Use	Activity	Management	Recommended work
<b>Wood cutting</b>	<b>R6A, R40B, R44B</b> <i>ice bridge, winter road, cabin logs, moose habitat, future residences, view from Minto, salmon habitat, mine might reopen</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Habitat protection</li> <li>Commercial cabin logs in (near?) future</li> <li>Firewood in future</li> <li>No cutting at present</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Moose habitat areas</li> <li>Salmon habitat protection</li> <li>Timber harvest plan</li> <li>View corridor for Yukon River</li> <li>Commercial status of cabin logs</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Identify key moose habitats</li> <li>Identify salmon habitats</li> <li>Develop timber harvest plan</li> <li>Status and inventory of cabin logs</li> <li>Review plan status if mine reopens</li> </ul>

Use	Activity	Management	Recommended work
<b>Cabin and house building</b>	<b>R34B</b> <i>people live there interest in moving back</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Cabins/houses</li> <li>G.A. meeting house</li> <li>Treatment centre</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>SFN lands policy</li> <li>Minto community plan</li> <li>Land administration by SFN</li> <li>Dooli/traditional way</li> <li>Sustainable development</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Review lands policy</li> <li>Develop Minto Community Development Plan</li> <li>Set up SFN Lands Committee</li> </ul>
	<b>R40B, R6A, R3A, R11B</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Leave for future residence potential</li> </ul>		

Use	Activity	Management	Recommended work
<b>Commercial Agriculture</b>	<b>All R blocks in Minto planning area</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>No commercial agriculture will be permitted until proper soil samples done</li> <li>Pilot projects in agriculture will be done by SFN first</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>SFN lands policy</li> <li>Minto community plan</li> <li>Land administration by SFN</li> <li>Dooli/traditional way</li> <li>Sustainable development</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Look for good agricultural pilot project to be undertaken by SFN</li> </ul>

